

dictated 11/24/63 on Green typewriter

STATEMENT

1:00 PM November 24, 1963

I was in Captain Fritz's office with the group to escort Oswald down from the ~~left~~ third floor by the way of the jail elevator. I was first off of the office and unlocked the door to the jail elevator. The prisoner and the other officers got on the elevator and I was the last to enter the elevator. On reaching the basement floor I was the first off the elevator, Captain Fritz followed me, he instructed me I would have to get in the second car.

He motioned me to lead out. I left by the double door on the East side of the jail office which was opened by a uniformed officer. When I got out into the driveway I found that the press photographers and news media were surrounding the area. The car in which the prisoner was to be loaded was attempting to back up into the opening where the prisoners are normally unloaded. I immediately moved forward toward the East side and South edge, moving the crowd of photographers and newsmen back. I had both arms outstretched and was able to contain most of them in this manner, covering a wide stretch. I was facing the East with my back to the prisoner. left To my ~~right~~ I saw that everything was clear for approximately ten feet up to where the television lights were located. I looked to my right and saw that some of the photographers were blocking the vehicle, I motioned for those cameramen and newsmen who were blocking the vehicle to move back and noted that the vehicle was starting to move back.

At this time I heard a gun discharge, with arms outstretched I wheeled to my left and looked over my left shoulder. I saw the backs of the officers wrestling with a person who had apparently fired the gun and moving the prisoner Oswald back into the jail office.

Almost at the time that the shot was fired the news media and photographers plunged forward upon the scene; I immediately forced them backwards while the officers were still struggling with the person that fired the gun.

I was able to contain these people fairly well until additional help arrived.

At the time the prisoner emerged from the jail office the area was clear except ~~for~~ for the photographers and news media that was blocking the car.

It was obvious that the person wielding the gun had made a dash from the group of pressmen and news media that were at the ^{northeast} corner of the incoming ramp.

Officer W.J. Harrison was about eight to ten feet to my left. In the time it took me to look from left to right I am sure that no one left the ranks of pressmen between Harrison and myself.

Respectfully submitted,

R.E. Swain
Lt., Burglary Theft Bureau